



CECIL COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PROFILE

Cecil County's topography is made up of two geologic regions. The Atlantic Coastal Plain covers the eastern two-thirds of the county, and the Piedmont Plateau cover's most of the northwest area. The land varies from flat along the coast to gently rolling in the Piedmont area, with some rocky bluffs along the Susquehanna River.

Cecil County contains approximately 222,824 acres. Agriculture uses about 38.5 percent of the land -- approximately 85,702 acres. Cecil County ranked 5th in number of sheep, 6th in number of cattle, and 7th in number of hogs, according to the 1997 Agriculture Census. It leads the state in the number of laying hens.

Much of the agricultural land is devoted to dairy farms. The principal crops are corn and wheat. Soybeans, barley, oats, and vegetables are secondary in importance. The area is also desirable for the raising of horses, and several thoroughbred farms produce horses for racing and other uses.

Cecil County has been called "Little Maryland" because its makeup is somewhat representative of most of the natural resources found throughout the State.

CECIL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Crop	Year	Unit	Acreage Harvested	Average Yield	Total Production
Corn for Grain	1997	Bu.	19,700	84.7	1,699,000
	1998		19,200	125.7	2,413,700
	1999		16,300	92.0	1,499,600
Corn for Silage	1997	Tons.	3000	13.5	40,500
	1998		*	*	*
	1999		2,000	13.0	26,000
Soybeans	1997	Bu.	15,000	30.9	464,000
	1998		14,900	33.6	500,000
	1999		17,800	33.9	604,000
Wheat	1997	Bu.	7,000	70.3	492,000
	1998		7,400	66.5	492,000
	1999		6,900	64.9	447,500
Hay	1997	Tons.	7,600	3.1	23,400
	1998		7,900	4.2	32,900
	1999		7,100	2.3	16,200
Barley	1997	Bu.	1,900	62.2	136,000
	1998		2,600	65.4	17,0000
	1999		1,800	80.0	14,4000

Crop Production Rank among MD. Counties, 1999				Livestock Inventories Rank among MD. Counties, 1997 ¹	
Corn	10	Oats	³	Cattle	6
Wheat	9	Barley	6	Hogs	7
Hay	9	Soybeans	9	Sheep	5
				Milk Production	6 ⁵

CECIL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Farm Numbers & Size ¹		1987	1992	1997
Number of Farms		501	455	464
Average Size (acres)		173	176	185
Land in Farms (acres)		86,861	80,241	85,702

Livestock (Number on Farms) ¹		1987	1992	1997
Cattle Inventory	Jan. 1	13,511	11,253	10,466
Hog Inventory	Dec. 1	4,211	2,644	4,198
Sheep Inventory	Jan. 1	477	1,729	1,469

Average Number of Milk Cows		1997	1998	1999
		3,500	3,300	3,300

Milk Production - 1,000 lbs.		1997	1998	1999
		55,700	53,000	55,000

Value of Sales ¹		1987	1992	1997
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	----- Thousand Dollars -----			
All Products		40,411	35,504	59,052
Crops		9,735	13,517	22,889
Livestock, Poultry and Poultry Products		30,675	21,987	36,163

¹ Source: Census of Agriculture, NASS.
² Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.
³ Unranked - Data not published.
⁴ Revised.
⁵ 1999.
* Acreage too small to publish.

MONTHLY WEATHER DATA - 1999

MONTH	AVERAGE TEMP. (F)	NORMAL 1961-1990	TOTAL RAINFALL (INCHES)	NORMAL 1961-1990
January	** 36.0	29.2	5.76	3.38
February	**	32.0	3.19	2.95
March	**	41.5	5.65	3.50
April	**	51.4	3.39	3.76
May	64.1	62.0	2.15	4.18
June	**	70.8	4.02	4.30
July	78.6	75.1	** 2.05	4.24
August	**	74.0	3.40	4.46
September	** 70.3	67.0	** 17.54	3.95
October	** 56.3	55.1	** 3.93	3.23
November		44.5	2.33	3.74
December	** 52.1	34.3	3.21	3.79
	**			
Annual		53.1	**	45.48
	**			

** Insufficient or partial data.

Number frost free days

Normal frost free days 1951-1980 190 *(1961-1990 Not available)*

Highest temperature

Lowest temperature

MD Agricultural Statistics Service 50 Harry S Truman Parkway Annapolis, Maryland 21401 Phone: (410) 841-5740 Fax #: (410) 841-5755 E-Mail: nass-md@nass.usda.gov Home Page: http://www.usda.gov/nass/	Cecil County Extension Service Courthouse, Room 7 129 East Main Street Elkton, Maryland 21921 Phone: (410) 996-5280 Fax #: (410) 996-5285
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Compiled by the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service
and the Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service.